HRIC
Executive Committee Notes
5/8/03

1) **Technical Education -**
    Chuck Stander reported that the Tech Ed pilot governance structures have been extended for an additional year by the Legislature. On the subject of the future direction of the Tech Ed system he suggested that he sees the HRIC and WIBs as having a significant role to play because the Council represents those outside of the education community such as other agencies and the business community who rely on the Centers. He identified several areas where the Department of Education and the Tech Centers need the support of the HRIC/WIBs. Specifically, the Council could support adequate funding for the centers, which are more expensive on a per capita basis than traditional high schools, and work to make sure that all students have access to career oriented applied learning opportunities either at tech centers or high schools. Chuck identified several key goals for the Tech Ed system; increasing participation from the current 32% of high school students to 40%, expanding applied learning opportunities into high schools, and advancing other recommendations in the '03 Tech Ed report to the Legislature which the Council endorsed at its January meeting.

    Fran suggested that making this case would require some good data related to cost and outcomes. Val suggested that although the present Act 60 debate might have unintended consequences for the Tech Ed system these would not kick in for over a year, so we would have the next session of the Legislature available to make any necessary changes.

    The '03 Recommendations to the Legislature contained three key areas of recommendations:

    a) **Expand the reach of technical education -** down into middle schools, and up in the form of stronger linkages to post-secondary education to create effective career pathways.

    b) **Increase the intensity of technical education programs -** in 11th and 12th grades to include more hours of instruction, industry recognized skill standards to guide the curriculum, and the integration of strong academics in all programs. It appears that the Legislature will pass a bill this year that will permit Tech Centers to become diploma-granting institutions, however this will not be a solution that works in every region.

    c) **Expand adult education/workforce preparation opportunities -** through post-secondary partnerships, expanded apprenticeship and continuing Ed programs that lead to industry respected credentials, and by establishing an adequate and reliable source of funding to support these programs.

The HRIC and WIBs can be helpful by:
a) **Initiating and supporting local initiatives** that expand career awareness and access to Technical Education programming.
b) **By supporting active involvement of the business community** and partner agencies on advisory committees and by initiating and supporting alternative new governance structures and describing how such boards can function.
c) **Continuing to promote the vision** contained in the '03 Tech Ed Report with the State Board of Education, the Legislature and key business and trade associations.
d) **Functioning as a forum and convener** on issues of adult education, secondary/post-secondary linkages, and overall workforce development policy.

Between now and the next Legislative session we need to work out the Legislative and resource implications of these challenges and prepare a working agenda for the fall.

ACTION:
Fran suggested that the HRIC convene the Tech Centers, WIBs, Higher-Ed, Schools, Legislatures and Businesses to look at innovative strategies for the above issues and how we can maximize impacts within existing budgets. This could be accomplished at the WIB Retreat in the fall, providing sufficient time for advanced planning to make working sessions at the Retreat successful. It might be desirable to identify selected regions as successful examples of one of the strategies around which workshops could be organized. This idea will be placed on the June agenda for further discussion.

2) **Review of plans for the June 12 full Council meeting -**
The draft agenda was reviewed and modified. We will start with a Legislative update and a quick overview and discussion of the Strategic Plan as agreed to at the April meeting. The balance of the agenda will be changed - see draft attached at the end of the report.

3) **Discussion of first draft of HRIC performance data -**
Chip provided a first draft of the performance data for the Indicators in the Strategic Plan. The discussion centered around the fact that the numbers are not particularly meaningful without a sense of the trends behind them. Over time, trends will emerge, but it was agreed that we should see if we can find past years data on these items to give us current trends. Chip will see what past data is available. Several other tweaks were made to the Indicators that will be included in the next draft.

4) **Update and next steps on WIA Youth performance data -**
Bob provided an update on the performance data. There have been two positive developments. First, in recognition of the poor economy, ETA has agreed to revise the targets for wages and job retention downward to levels that are within reach. Second, DET has been working on gathering missing data and as a result the figures have been revised upward in several categories. Bob stated that this is

a priority for DET and that they believe the performance will be improved on the next report.

5) **Update on Austrian student exchanges -**
Chip updated the Committee on the visit of 12 young Austrian Industrial Electrician Apprentices to IBM in June being organized by the HRIC, and the trip for a dozen Tech Center Culinary students to an Austrian Culinary school, also in June being organized by the Burlington Tech Center with support from DOE.

6) **Executive Director annual performance review -**
Closed session discussion.

The planned discussion of JOB Corps with the CY Chair had to be rescheduled for the June meeting, as Paul Haskell will be out of town.

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DRAFT

HRIC Meeting
June 12, 2003
Woodbury College
Montpelier, Vermont

DRAFT AGENDA

15 mins.   **1) Welcome -** introduction of new members and approval of January minutes (time should be provided for the Governor's appointees who will be attending their first meeting to make a few brief comments)

30 mins.   **2) Legislative Update -** Tech Ed progress on State Board and update on the Chittenden Tech Center

15 mins.   **3) An overview of the Strategic Plan -** how it is structured, how it will guide our work, and how it can be updated - Q and A

45 mins.   **4) Member Input -** members will be asked to review the Plan before the meeting and think about implementation. At the meeting, we will break into groups on the four Goal areas and hold facilitated discussions focusing on implementation ideas and suggestions. To the extent possible this should include identification of any additional parties, beyond those identified in the Strategic Plan, who could work on implementation. Facilitators will be matched with a member of the Executive Committee in each group. Members representing agencies, who

have lead responsibilities in the Goal areas will be assigned to those groups, other assignments will be random. The resulting ideas will be used to advance Plan implementation.

30 mins.   **5) Reports on Plan Activities -** To try out a model for accountability reports we have selected several "Activities" (1.1, 1.5,) that will be reported at the meeting. Each report will follow a format a) current status, b) opportunities and challenges 3) plans and next steps, 4) relevant performance measures, 5) request for Council endorsement of the proposed activities. This will serve as a model for reports on selected areas that will occur at each full Council meeting. Reports will be straight forward, jargon free and will focus on specific accomplishments expressed in measurable terms.

Public Comment

Adjourn